

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2968

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, IS, SF, NI

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF ISRAEL AT ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE

REF: (A) USUN 2565, (B) STATE 192521, (C) STATE 192539

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR SENU TOLD CHARGE' WYMAN IN MEETING ON AUGUST 16 THAT NIGERIAN DELEGATION WILL MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO PREVENT LINKAGE OF APARTHEID AND ZIONISM AT THE FORTHCOMING ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. HE WAS MORE CAUTIOUS IN COMMENTING ON POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAEL MAY BE A MAJOR TARGET AT THAT CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 16 CHARGE' MET WITH AMBASSADOR SANU IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE ANTIA APARTHEID CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF WHETHER THAT CONFERENCE WILL SINGLE ISRAEL OUT AS A SPECIAL TARGET. COMMISSIONER GARBA WAS NOT AVAILABLE AND AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN HAD NOT YET APPEARED AT MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. CHARGE' TOLD AMBASSADOR SANU THAT USG HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BY VARIOUS INDICATIONS, WHICH HE CITED PER PARA 2 OF
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REFTEL (A), THAT THE FORTHCOMING ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE MIGHT MAKE A PARTICULAR TARGET OF ISRAEL. THIS CONCERNED USG VERY MUCH BECAUSE, WHILE SENTIMENT REGARDING APARTHEID IS ALMOST UNANIMOUS IN THE US, ISRAEL ENJOYS STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. USG DESIRES TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE WORK OF THE ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE AND TO ENDORSE THE DOCUMENTS WHICH EMERGE FROM IT, BUT ITS ABILITY TO DO SO

WOULD BE AFFECTED IF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD DEVOTE A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO ISRAEL.

4. SANU BROKE IN AT THIS POINT TO SAY HE HAD RECENTLY ASSURED ASSISTANT SECRETARY BILL MAYNES THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE EVERY ENDEAVOR TO PREVENT THE CONFERENCE FROM ENDORSING THE THEME OF THE EQUIVALENCY OF APARTHEID AND ZIONISM. THIS WAS A DIFFERENT MATTER, HOWEVER, FROM CRITICISM OF ISRAEL AT THE CONFERENCE. SUCH CRITICISM WAS INEVITABLE, NIGERIA COULD NOT PREVENT IT, AND ISRAEL WOULD PRESUMABLY BE THERE TO DEFEND ITSELF.

5. CHARGE' TOLD SANU THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO EQUATD APARTHEID AND ZIONISM WOULD INDEED BE OF GREAT CONCERN TO USG. WE WOULD NOT, ON THE OTHER HAND, BE GREATLY CONCERNED IF ISRAEL SHOULD BE ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH CAME IN FOR SPECIFIC CRITICISM AT THE CONFERENCE. IF ISRAEL SHOULD BE SINGLED OUT, HOWEVER, AD APPEARED TO BE A REALLY CONSPICUOUS TARGET OF ATTACKS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE USG TO FULLY SUPPORT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE. SANU REPLIED THAT NIGERIA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT ARAB DELEGATIONS FROM CRITICIZING ISRAEL SEVERELY BUT THAT HE TOOK NOTE OF OUR CONCERN AND THAT NIGERIA WOULD BE ENDEAVORING TO INFLUENCE THE DOCUMENTS WHICH EMERGE FROM THE CONFERENCE. CHARGE' SAID HE WAS SURE NIGERIA WOULD HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND THAT ITS INFLUENCE IN RELATION TO ISRAEL WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. CONFIDENTIAL

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6. AMBASSADOR SANU WAS NOT READY TO GO ANY FURTHER IN PREDICTING THE EXTENT TO WHICH ISRAEL WOULD BE A TARGET OF CRITICISM. HE COMMENTED ONLY THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY ARAB SCHEME TO DEVOTE A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO ISRAEL AT THE CONFERENCE. HE HOPED THAT USG WAS SPEAKING TO THE MODERATE ARAB GOVERNMENTS IN THIS REGARD.

7. COMMENT: FROM SANU'S COMMENTS AND ATTITUDE I FEEL QUITE CONFIDENT THAT THE FMG WOULD EXERT STRONG EFFORTS TO AVOID ANY LINKAGE IN THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS BETWEEN ZIONISM AND APARTHEID. I BELIEVE IT WILL ALSO MAKE SOME ATTEMPT, IF NECESSARY, TO PREVENT OVER-EMPHASIS ON ISRAEL IN THE DECLARATIONS EMERGING FROM THE CONFERENCE. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, HOW STRENUOUS ITS EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE IF STRONG PRESSURE IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION WERE EXERTED BY ARAB GOVERNMENTS. WYMAN

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